

CITIZEN'S TRANSPORTATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes January 21, 2003

A Citizen's Transportation Oversight Committee (CTOC) meeting was held at the Arizona Department of Transportation, Board Room 145-147, Phoenix, Arizona on January 21, 2003 with Chairperson Roc Arnett presiding.

Members Present:

Roc Arnett, Chairperson
Dwight Amery, Member-at-Large
Ron Gawlitta, Maricopa County District 3
Tom Liddy, Maricopa County District 1
Jim Lykins, Maricopa County District 2
Paul Schwartz, Maricopa County District 4

Members Absent:

None

Others Present:

Victor Mendez, Director, ADOT
Debra Brisk, Deputy Director
Carolyn Deobler, ADOT
Steve Jimenez, ADOT
Doug Nintzel, ADOT Community Relations Office
Elizabeth Neville, ADOT
Dave French, URS Corp.
William "Blue" Crowley, citizen

Chuck Eaton, ADOT
Kwi Kang, ADOT
Craig Rudolph, ADOT
Dan Lance, ADOT
Dennis Smith, MAG
Doris Schwartz, citizen
Edward Johnson, citizen

1. Call To Order:

Chairperson Arnett called the Citizen's Transportation Oversight Committee meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes, November 19, 2002:

Chairperson Arnett called for a motion. Paul Schwartz moved to approve the minutes of the CTOC meeting and Dwight Amery seconded the motion.

3. Staff Report:

Chuck Eaton reported the following information:

- In December, Governor Hull, supported by the ADOT Director and a number of Mayors, announced a three-year plan for application of asphalt rubber on approximately 115 miles of Regional Freeway System.
- Red Mountain (202L) – Gilbert to Higley: A freeway dedication was held January 11, 2003 celebrating the opening of this segment. The final portion of the project between Greenfield and Higley and the ramps at Val Vista have been completed and are now open. Approximately 10,000 people attended.
- Grand Avenue – 43rd Avenue/Camelback and 51st Avenue/Bethany Home Road: Project was awarded to Kraemer in December for \$20.2 million.
- SR 51 HOV Lanes I-10 to Shea Blvd.: Ames/Kraemer was the low bidder at approximately \$75.7M. This project is on the Board agenda for January.
- South Mountain Corridor – Environmental Impact Statement/Design Concept Report – Still coordinating with the Gila River Indian Community to provide alternative alignments on Indian land. In the meantime, eight alignments between 27th Avenue/Pecos and I-10 West (Papago) from 55th Avenue to 101L are being evaluated.

The following questions and comments were made:

- Chairperson Arnett asked if any consideration has been given to giving different segments of the Loop 101 different names to help people quickly identify those areas. Mr. Nintzel said the consensus has been to keep the Loop system intact and encourage passengers and emergency service people to describe a location using terms such as “the Pima”, “the Agua Fria” or “east” or “west”. Chairperson Arnett expressed his opinion the situation will get more confusing in the future.

4. Status of Sales Tax Extension:

Chairperson Arnett explained the Legislature must approve enabling legislation that allows Maricopa County to call for a vote of the people to extend the half-cent sales tax. He stated a bill, HB 2292 has been presented by the House Transportation Chairman and will begin going through the committees. He encouraged members to contact their Legislators, the County and the Mayors of their respective cities.

Dennis Smith, MAG Executive Director, stressed the importance of modeling the cooperation seen between MAG and ADOT in the bill. He suggested the legislation acknowledge contributions by the County by stating the County may call for the election. He said the legislation needs to acknowledge the Transportation Policy Committee.

The following questions and comments were made:

- In response to Tom Liddy's question, Chairperson Arnett explained the Mayor of the City of Phoenix proposed dedicating a certain percentage of the sales tax to high capacity transit corridors. Mr. Smith noted Phoenix originally wanted to take 50 percent of the tax and do a revenue sharing concept back to the cities. He said they ultimately came back asking for equity in the plan. Mr. Liddy cautioned against giving people the impression that passage of the sales tax extension will give Phoenix Light Rail.

5. Status on Plan to Overlay Freeway's with Rubberized Asphalt:

Chuck Eaton, ADOT, presented a Power Point presentation on the proposed plan to overlay freeways with quiet pavements. A written copy of his presentation was submitted for the record.

Action: Mr. Schwartz moved that staff prepare a letter thanking and congratulating MAG and ADOT on the team work and planning effort they've done with the Rubberized Asphalt project. Mr. Liddy seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The following questions and comments were made:

- Blue Crowley expressed concern that the use of rubberized asphalt would exacerbate pollution problems.
- Chairperson Arnett asked what is the life expectancy for rubberized asphalt. Mr. Eaton responded 10 to 12 years.

6. Draft 2002 Annual Report:

Chairperson Arnett referred to the Draft 2002 Annual Report and the 2001 Annual Report, asking the Committee members to review both reports and identify any issues they feel should be included in the 2002 report to the Legislature. He listed noise mitigation, guaranteed funding, system maintenance, HOV/HOT lanes and congestion points as issues he would like considered when making recommendations to the Legislature.

Ron Gawlitta recommended future freeway capacity enhancement discussions include serious input and costing studies from experts on developing an elevated system whose purpose would be to bring commuters from "outlying areas" to inner cities via already established rights-of-way, specifically the median or the outer edges of the existing freeway systems. These lines should stop at points in the high traffic areas, airport, sports venues, major commerce centers, government facility concentrations, each of which should be serviced by a circulator system similar to DASH whose purpose would be to serve specific destinations.

Chairperson Arnett asked the members to prepare and fax a rough draft report to ADOT staff within the next ten days, allowing them to proceed with the annual report by the first week of February.

7. Loop 303 EA/DCR Study Update:

Dave French, of URS Corporation, reviewed the boundaries of the Loop 303 study corridor, which includes how the Carefree Highway and Lone Mountain routes interrelate. He said they are currently looking at various road configurations, noting a public meeting is scheduled for February 19, 2003. He explained the forecast currently targets 2030, at which time the study area will be substantially developed.

The following questions and comments were made:

- Chairperson Arnett asked if changing the alignment to Carefree Highway would require a change to the MAG Plan. Mr. Smith responded yes.

8. Draft Tentative Life Cycle Program:

Kwi Kang, ADOT, presented the MAG Life Cycle Program, identifying the program's three major funding sources, RARF, HURF and the Federal Aid Fund. He reported 96 miles of freeway have been opened to traffic, 10 miles are currently under construction and 32 miles are under design. He stated the Gilbert to Greenfield and Greenfield to Higley sections of the Red Mountain were opened in October 2002 and January 2003, respectively, and the 91st Avenue ramps on Grand Avenue were opened in November 2002. He said the Red Mountain, Country Club to Gilbert landscape project was awarded in August 2002 and the Pima and Price noise mitigation project was awarded in September 2002. He stated the Grand Avenue, 43rd Avenue/Camelback and 51st Avenue/Bethany Home Road project was awarded in December 2002. With regard to program changes, Mr. Kang stated project costs for design, right-of-way and construction were updated and a new project was created in FY 2008 for the Agua Fria/Bethany Home Road TI. He said landscape project costs were also adjusted to reflect the actual acreage to be landscaped. He reviewed the program schedule, stating the MAG committees, PPAC and Board will approve the tentative program in February and a Joint Board/MAG/ RPTA/CTOC public hearing will be held March 6, 2003. He said the program will be reviewed for air quality conformity during April and May and the Board will adopt the 2004-2007 program in June 2003.

9. Draft Tentative Five-Year Program in the MAG Region:

Chuck Eaton, ADOT, stated they fully coordinated stakeholders and the public involvement process in developing the Tentative Five Year Program cooperatively with MAG and the Transit Operator. He explained the MAG funding estimate totals \$205 million, with \$50 million going to the Regional Freeway System and \$30 million going toward the MAG subprograms, leaving \$125 million available to program major projects. He identified cooperative ADOT/MAG/RPTA projects for FY 2008, including acceleration of the Regional Freeway System, protection of the Loop 303 right-of-way, interchange improvements and design funding for future years. He reviewed the FY 2004-2008 Program schedule, stating the MAG Transportation Policy Committee and Board are expected to approve the program for public comment in February, a joint MAG/Board/RPTA/CTOC public hearing is scheduled for March 6, Board hearings will be held in Tucson and Flagstaff in April and the Board is expected to adopt the program in June 2003.

The following questions and comments were made:

- Ron Gawlitta asked about the status of SR 85. Mr. Eaton stated they have added approximately \$16 million a year through 2007. He said the projects in 2004-2007 had significant cost increases; therefore, the \$16 million originally programmed in 2008 was delayed until FY 2009. Mr. Gawlitta said completion of SR 85 would relieve I-10 of a lot of truck traffic. Chairperson Arnett suggested they plan for the future, but accomplish what can be done immediately to provide for a safer highway.
- Ron Gawlitta asked if the Desert Hills off-ramp has been delayed. Mr. Lance said the contractor was asked to delay construction on Daisy Mountain until after the first of the year, however construction has now started.

10. Call to the Public:

William “Blue” Crowley, citizen, said they have a unique opportunity with regard to SR 85 given the State’s relationship with the head of the Department of Transportation at the Federal level. He said the rural system is made up of the worst roads in the State, suggesting they be improved before any money is spent on light rail unless the rail will be built along the same corridor as the freeway. He stressed the need to address multi-modal transportation on the Loop 101 and 303, stating federal guidelines require first consideration be given to pedestrian and bicycle traffic. He asked the State to build bike lane and address electric vehicle traffic on the Loop 101 and 303.

11. Next Scheduled Meeting:

Open House 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.
Joint Public Hearing, 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Thursday, March 6, 2003
MAG Office – 302 N. 1st Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

12. CTOC Member Reports:

No reports were made

13. Closing comments and Adjournment:

No comments were made.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.